

Salvador's Duarte dies

SAN SALVADOR (AP) — Jose Napoleón Duarte, who became El Salvador's first democratically elected president in 20 years but was unable to end a 12-year civil war, died Friday, his doctor said. He was 64. "Duarte died of respiratory failure at 11:30 (a.m., or 1730 GMT)," said his personal physician, José Luis Gómez. He had battled cancer in his stomach and liver for 22 months. In May 1989, doctors at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington diagnosed the cancer. They removed 60 per cent of Duarte's stomach but said the cancer had spread to his liver. Doctors gave him six to 12 months to live, but he survived the predictions. He was reported near death at least two times previously. His condition worsened this week, and doctors said cold death was imminent. Duarte was elected president in 1984, inheriting the task of replacing an authoritarian, semi-failed system with democracy. "He didn't work miracles," said a high-ranking U.S. diplomat who served in El Salvador for most of Duarte's term. "But he must be credited with initiating the democratic system itself. His great legacy is the transition of government. The rest goes by comparison."

Volume 15 Number 4324

AMMAN SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1990, RAJAB 29, 1410

Izzeddin questions superpowers

AMMAN (I.T.) — The right of the Soviet citizens to emigrate should not be restricted to Soviet citizens, this is the Jordanian message to Moscow. Information Minister Ibrahim Izzeddin said Friday. The King also wants to ask the United States why there had been a change in his view, said Freddie Carter, that settlements in the occupied territories were illegal, the minister told reporters while he was attending the press conference at the Sports City for media coverage of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) summit which opens Saturday. He said the Arabs would demand from the U.S. to declare Israeli settlements in the occupied territories as illegal and therefore American aid to the Jewish state also as illegal. The Arabs will also seek European help in this regard, he added. Jordan is being subjected immense pressure from various sources, including Israel, but the Kingdom is resisting all such pressures, he said. The minister expected closer coordination among the ACC, the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Arab Maghreb Union called for unified political and economic strategies among the three blocs.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by Jordan Times Foundation
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Yugoslav president visits Egypt Monday

BELGRADE (R) — Yugoslav President Jozef Broz Tito will leave on a three-day visit to Egypt Monday, Tass news agency said Friday. His talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak were expected to further cooperation between the two non-aligned countries, especially in the economic sphere, it said.

Mandela to visit Tanzania next month

DAR ES SALAAM (R) — African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela will visit Tanzania from March 6 to 8 for talks with government leaders and a tour of ANC camps, a spokesman said Friday. The head of the reception committee for Mandela in Tanzania, Brigadier Moses Ntweya, said Mandela was coming as a guest of the ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi party and would meet President Ali Hassan Mwinyi and former President Julius Nyerere. Mandela, accompanied by his wife Winnie, will also visit ANC farming and educational settlements near Morogoro.

Britain changes visa rules

LONDON (AP) — Algerians, Moroccans and Tunisians will need visas to enter the United Kingdom, Home Secretary David Waddington announced Friday. The numbers of citizens of these countries who turn out to be ineligible to enter this country had led to an increased burden for immigration control and "delays and inconvenience for passengers," Waddington said in a written statement to the House of Commons.

Italy evacuates most Beirut staff

ROME (R) — Italy has evacuated most of its embassy staff in Beirut in recent weeks because of fighting but does not plan to close the mission, the Foreign Ministry said Friday. "We have progressively reduced personnel to the bare minimum necessary to ensure an adequate diplomatic presence," a spokesman said. "However, there are no plans at present to close the embassy."

Protesters riot in two Kenyan cities

NAIROBI (R) — Anti-government riots erupted in two Kenyan cities Friday following the funeral of a popular minister who demonstrators believe was murdered.

The disturbances, in the capital Nairobi and the provincial city of Kisumu, were the worst since an attempted coup against President Daniel Arap Moi in 1982. The more violent clashes were in Kisumu, 400 kilometers west of Nairobi, where police battled with several thousand people who had gathered to see Foreign Minister Robert Ouko's body lying in state in the city's sports stadium. A Reuters correspondent in Kisumu, Kenya's third city, said he saw police fire repeatedly over the heads of the crowd and lob tear-gas canisters into houses to clear them of demonstrators who had taken refuge. At least one person was injured by a police bullet. In Nairobi, riot police chased small groups of demonstrators in the centre of the city for several hours.

Fadilah urges hostages' release

BEIRUT (R) — A leading pro-Iranian Muslim cleric appealed Friday for the release of 17 Western hostages in Lebanon, saying the West had used their plight to defame Islam. "Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadilah, the spiritual mentor of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah (Party of God), issued the appeal during Friday prayers after visiting Iran earlier this month. "We have to find practical and humanitarian means to free the kidnapped foreigners because this issue has been exploited a lot by Western powers in order to defame the image of Islam and Muslims," he said in the second such appeal in two days.

The pro-government, Tehran Times said in an editorial on Thursday: "Regardless of the West's propaganda ploys, Muslim forces out of Islamic and humanitarian considerations, should work to get the hostages free with no precondition."

His Majesty King Hussein Friday receives Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, North Yemeni President Ali Abdallah Saleh and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak upon their arrival (Photos by Yousef Al 'Amm and Petar).

ACC summit opens today

Soviet influx to Palestine, Arab water situation pressing concerns — Qasem

By Nermene Mirad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) opens its first anniversary summit here today with five hot regional issues and economic integration among the member states high on its agenda.

The leaders of Iraq, Egypt, North Yemen and Jordan will deliberate over the next two days Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine, threats posed to Arab water resources, and the deadlock in efforts to settle the Iran-Iraq conflict, the Lebanese civil war and the festering Arab-Israeli

conflict.

The four leaders will also discuss developments in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union "which have upset many balances and disrupted the international political strategic situation," Marwan Qasem, deputy prime minister and foreign minister who

(Continued on page 4)

Leaders gather

AMMAN (I.T.) — The four leaders of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) gathered here Friday and prepared for their third formal summit which opens today.

His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Mudar Badra and high-level officials were at hand to welcome President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, President Ali Abdallah Saleh of North Yemen and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and the top-level delegations accompanying them.

Following colourful welcoming ceremonies at the Queen Alia

(Continued on page 4)

Israelis bar Palestinians from prayers at Al Aqsa

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops on Friday barred Palestinians from entering Jerusalem for noon prayers to prevent demonstrations and Palestinians staged a rare peace march in Nablus.

In the Gaza Strip, a suspected Arab informer died after being beaten and stabbed last week by unknown activists, reports said.

Also Friday, the Israeli army said troops raiding the West Bank village of Sinjal arrested 19 Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) activists and sealed three homes of Palestinians accused of Friday noon prayers, Palestinian reporters said.

In the Jerusalem suburb of Abu Dis, an Associated Press reporter saw troops turn away

two Palestinian-run buses en route to the city.

Police said the roadblocks were set up for security checks. They would not say whether security forces were under orders to turn away all Palestinians from the occupied lands.

"This is a sensitive day," a spokesman said, referring to the 21st anniversary of the founding of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

The actual anniversary was Thursday, but police said authorities feared demonstrations after Friday's noon prayers.

In Thursday's army raid of Sinjal, a village of 4,000 people near Ramallah, troops rounded up 19 Palestinians.

Beirut truce rattled

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Rival Christian forces duelled with mortars and tank cannon in east Beirut Friday, shattering efforts to reopen roads and stabilise a ceasefire in the intra-Christian shew.

Police said five 120-mm mortar rounds crashed into crowded residential districts of west Beirut, close to the city's dividing green line, killing three people and wounding 22.

The Barbir Hospital, the closest to the stricken district, issued an appeal through the Voice of the Nation radio for urgent blood donations to cope with the flow of casualties.

The radio said the west Beirut, which has not been involved in the power struggle pitting renegade General Michel Aoun against militia chieftain Samir Geagea, "always pays the price."

"Why was west Beirut shelled?" the announcer asked. "For what cause did these innocent victims fall?"

A police spokesman said a casualty report was not immediately available from the escalating duel in east Beirut.

By police count, the showdown for mastery of the 800-square-kilometre Christian enclave has killed 688 people and wounded 1,906 since it broke out Jan. 30.

The toll included 34 dead and 171 wounded in Muslim west and south Beirut, which have been repeatedly subjected to shelling by the warring Christian factions.

The overall toll of fatalities also included 108 soldiers that Aoun's command reported as being killed in the fighting.

The Lebanese Forces command, in a communiqué, blamed the sudden barrage on gunners of Aoun's 19,000-strong army, saying they targeted its east Beirut stronghold of Ashrafieh from tanks and mortar emplacements on the city's southeastern edges.

The communiqué said the barrage was an attempt to "block efforts to remove mines, reopen roads and disengage the forces."

But Aoun's radio said Geagea's 6,000-strong militia "never tried to reopen any road."

"While claiming they wanted to remove mines and reopen blocked roads, the gunners were opening fire from sniping nests at residential districts defended by the army," the communiqué said.

The communiqué, broadcast by Aoun's Radio Lebanon, said Geagea's gunners shelled the army-held districts of Furn Al Shubak, Tahlwita and Sin Al Fil.

Shells started crashing into Ashrafieh at 12:30 a.m. (1030 GMT), almost half an hour after about 5,000 people gathered in the district's Sassiye square and prayed for peace in Lebanon, police said.

(Continued on page 4)

ACC seeks Arab action on hot political issues

By Jordan Times Staff Writers

AMMAN — Increased political and economic coordination, and difficult regional and international problems, including the implications of a prospective massive Jewish influx to Israel, are expected to dominate the deliberations of the four leaders of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) who opened the council's first anniversary summit in Amman today.

Talks between the leaders of Egypt, Iraq, North Yemen and Jordan are expected to cover the deadlocked efforts to settle the 15-year-old Lebanese civil strife, the stalled Arab-Israeli peace process, the no-war-no-peace situation in the Gulf after eight years of bloody conflict between Iran and Iraq and the impact of the expected political unity between North and South Yemen on the make-up and functions of the council.

The four leaders — His Majesty King Hussein and presidents Mohammad Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, Saddam Hussein of Iraq and Ali Abdallah Saleh of North Yemen — are also expected to discuss the impact of rapid changes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe on the Arab World, Arab officials said. Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem

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threat of the Soviet Jewish influx but many believe that any concerted Arab action to counter the threat has to come through an Arab summit, prospects of which have been somewhat dimmed lately.

Jordan, which feels directly threatened by Soviet migration to Israel, has repeatedly warned that any Israeli settlement of such a large number of immigrants in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip will not only undermine all prospects for a negotiated settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict but will also pose a grave threat to Jordan and the rest of the Arab World in the form of "greater Israel."

Jordanian leaders have said that Israel will have to resort to mass eviction of Palestinians from the occupied territories to the East Bank to make room for the expected wave of immigrants.

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At dawn, around three hours after the air attack, smoke continued to billow from the stricken

aircraft guns.

"I could see tracer anti-aircraft rounds in the sky, exploding around the planes into small puffs of white smoke. But none of the planes was hit," he said.

At dawn, around three hours after the air attack, smoke continued to billow from the stricken

aircraft guns.

"The targets attacked were used as organisation points for attacks against Israel," an Israeli statement said.

It did not say who controlled the bases.

British radio stations reported that jets made two bombing runs and hit a base belonging to a

Lebanese fundamentalist militia known as the Islamic Grouping.

Three guerrillas were reported injured in the attack.

King voices concern over peace efforts

AMMAN (I.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has voiced concern over the future of efforts for peace in the Middle East saying the influx of Soviet Jews to Israel was undermining prospects for Arab-Israeli negotiations.

The King, in an interview with the Egyptian newspapers Al Gouniouni and Al Massa on the eve of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) summit in Amman, assailed Israel's rejection of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as a negotiating partner in peace talks.

"There can be no solution unless the PLO is a principal party to negotiations," he said.

King Hussein welcomed the idea of convening an Arab League summit to discuss the latest developments in the various issues facing the Arab World but said such a gathering should be preceded by careful preparations to that all issues could be tackled comprehensively.

The formation of the ACC by Jordan, Egypt, North Yemen and Iraq one year ago, the King said, was a positive step towards achieving Arab unity and the council's achievements during its first year have raised Arab hopes for unity and integration.

Shamir shrugs off ultimatum on steps towards peace talks

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, under pressure from the dovish Labour Party, his own Likud and the United States, has said he will not accept any ultimatum on steps towards Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

The rightist Shamir shrugged off a decision by coalition partner Labour Thursday to set a two-week deadline for Israel to "discuss and decide... the issues that will enable the beginning of peace negotiations."

"I did not receive any ultimatum and I will not accept any ultimatum from anyone," said the 74-year-old premier, who has frequently insisted he is immune from pressure.

"When there is a need to bring a subject to discussion in the inner cabinet or the government, I will bring the subject to discussion," he told reporters.

Likud hardliners, divided for the past week on how to oppose Shamir's initiative for Palestinian movements in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories, returned to criticise Shamir for not immediately rejecting Labour's demands.

Likud rebel leader Ariel Sharon said Shamir was causing the disintegration of Likud, Israel's dominant party.

"(Shamir) is sandwiched between the Labour ministers pressing for diplomatic progress and the (Likud) camp that is opposed," political commentator Hanan Kristol told Israeli television.

"It appears that he has a nearly

impossible task. He must choose whether to go with Labour in diplomatic pursuits or with his party and indirectly break up the government," he said.

Labour Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, the pivotal figure in the 14-month-old coalition and co-author of Israel's election plan, made clear Shamir had to speed up the search for peace if the government was to continue.

Rabin backed Labour's two-week deadline, imposed a day before Foreign Minister Moshe Arens was due to meet U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Washington.

In a veiled warning to Israel, Baker told a congressional committee Thursday: "We need action. We've done a lot of talking, maybe we can do some more talking, but the time for action is coming very, very close."

He praised Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmael Abdul Maguid for cooperating ahead of proposed Egyptian and U.S.-sponsored Israeli-Palestinian talks in Cairo on Israel's election plan.

Baker said progress was possible if Arens could be "equally forthcoming." But Israeli political sources said Arens, a Likud member, would not be able to commit Israel to any position

because of the Likud-Labour differences.

The Labour resolution did not specify what action the party would take if Shamir did not meet its demands. Rabin said it was not an ultimatum but stressed the policy discussion must start within a fortnight.

He said earlier that three weeks was enough time to reach a decision on peace moves.

Likud members have blamed the Arab side for much of the delay in convening the Cairo talks, but Rabin said Egypt's position now made talks feasible.

Egypt has been consulting with the Palestine Liberation Organisation on terms for the talks, although Israel refuses to acknowledge any role for the PLO.

Likud opposes Egyptian demands for participation by Palestinians who live in Israeli-annexed East Jerusalem or who have been expelled in the past for security offences. Labour supports both proposals.

Jewish activists call for peace talks

Meanwhile Jewish peace activists from the United States, Canada and Europe said Thursday that Jews abroad are becoming increasingly impatient with Israel for failing to open peace talks with the Palestinians.

"I believe that a major rift is imminent between Israel and the Jewish communities abroad," warned Abraham Rotstein, an economics professor at the Uni-

versity of Toronto.

"I sense a growing alienation of leading Jewish communities from the state of Israel as it continues to deny statehood to the Palestinians and continues its occupation of the West Bank," he added.

The West Bank and Gaza Strip, occupied in the 1967 Middle East war, have been torn by a Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule for more than two years.

U.S. and Egyptian efforts to start Israeli-Palestinian talks have stalled over Israeli demands for "assurances" that the PLO be denied even an indirect role.

Rotstein's call for reviving the peace process was echoed by other speakers at a meeting in Israel called "the emergency world Jewish leadership peace conference."

The conference, sponsored by the Tel Aviv-based International Centre for Peace in the Middle East drew 450 participants, with one-third from abroad.

The goal of the two-day meeting was to try to convince Israel's factionalised government to move toward peace talks, said Willy Gafni, the centre's director.

"The atmosphere is growing against Israel," Gafni said. "Participants are saying how they perceive it in their countries. Our leaders should listen, and listen well."

Among the speakers was Rita Hansen, a New York attorney who drew the ire of Israeli hardliners when she and four other American Jews met with PLO leader Yasser Arafat in Stockholm in December 1988.

Shortly after the meeting, Arafat publicly recognised Israel's right to exist and renounced terrorism. The United States opened a limited dialogue with the PLO, but Israel has persisted in calling the PLO a terrorist group and in refusing to negotiate with it.

"The whole world is frustrated with Israel," Hansen said in an interview at the conference.

40 Israeli soldiers jailed for mass disobedience

TEL AVIV (R) — Some 40 Israeli soldiers were jailed this week for going absent without leave (AWOL) in an unprecedented case of mass disobedience, family members and the army said Friday.

The soldiers, in their third and final year of compulsory service in the Golani Infantry Brigade, returned three days late from weekend leave in protest at their treatment by a new commander, family members said.

The Golani Brigade commander jailed the protest organiser for 56 days while the other soldiers were jailed for between 14 and 28 days, the Al Hamishmar newspaper said.

It said the commander ordered soldiers to perform continual drills and fatigue duty normally reserved for new recruits in basic training.

"In this case there was infraction of accepted disciplinary norms for the Israeli army and it was handled by the brigade commander," an army spokesman said. He would not confirm the length of the prison terms.

Jewish and Druze Arab Israeli men are drafted at the age of 18 for three years while women must serve two years. After discharge Israeli men continue to serve in the reserves until age 54.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Salvage boats work against time to save cargo of burning tanker

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — The U.S. Navy warned vessels Friday to keep a distance six kilometres from the devastated Surf City tanker as an army of salvage boats worked around the clock to keep its combustible cargo from exploding.

The U.S.-flagged Bahrain tanker was loaded with naphtha and diesel fuel for Italy Thursday when an explosion ripped through it about 32 kilometres off the United Arab Emirates (UAE) coast.

Its American captain and first mate were killed. The U.S. Navy identified the victims as Derrick F. Linardich, the 38-year-old captain of Norfolk, Virginia; and Steven P. McHugh, the 34-year-old first mate from East Bridgewater, Massachusetts.

The other 23 seamen, all American but one, abandoned the burning ship and were rescued by the U.S. Navy frigate USS Simpson. Four of them were injured and admitted to hospitals in Dubai, but their condition was described as serious.

The cause of the explosion has not been confirmed, but speculation about mines was ruled out by the U.S. Navy and the owners. C. Miles Sheldon, head of Chesapeake Shipping Inc., the subsidiary used by the Kuwait Oil Tanker Co. (KOTC) to operate its American-registered tankers, told a press conference in Dubai, UAE that the two bodies were recovered and are in Dubai awaiting the completion of formalities before being sent home.

The 23 rescued men would also be flown home from Dubai after completion of formalities, Sheldon said.

He said the condition of the vessel remains unpredictable although the fire and been contained.

In case of total loss, he estimated value of ship and cargo at

over \$30 million, adding "at the time however, we do not feel it's a total loss. The ship is listing three degrees to port as a result of the loss of cargo."

The cargo lost was only naphtha which burns easily and evaporates, causing minimal pollution, he said.

Both Sheldon and Roger Croft, heading the investigation from the insurers Lloyd's of London, discounted the possibility that the ship was hit by a floating mine.

Sheldon said "the explosion according to our reports occurred above the waterline," and Croft added, "there was no water in the explosion following the explosion."

Investigations were proceeding, they said.

Because the explosion occurred halfway between the UAE Emirate of Umm Al Quwain and the Iranian island of Abu Musa, it provoked speculation that it might have been caused by an Iranian mine or other explosive. The Iranian Revolutionary Guards used the islands as a base for ship attacks during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

Capt. Ron Wildermuth, chief spokesman for the Central Command in Florida which oversees the U.S. Naval Forces, said initial reports indicated the explosion was caused by an internal accident.

Seaman Wayne Cohen said work was being done on one of the ship's starboard cargo tanks when the incident occurred.

Shipping sources in the southern Gulf region where the tanker was still billowing smoke said that the accommodation quarters had been gutted. But the stern of the tanker, where most of the cargo were stored, was intact and risked blowing up from the heat.

They said that two salvage tugboats from the KOTC owners overnight joined half a dozen

others from the United Arab Emirates, dousing the tanker with foam and water to fend off a more serious explosion.

"The accommodation quarters are still smoldering, and the heat could blow up the cargo, which would be a major disaster," said one of the shipping sources, who spoke on condition they not be identified.

The shipping executives said that the accommodation side bore the brunt of the destruction because the explosion occurred in the tanks underneath it.

The source said the vessel was listing, with the front part only about half a metre above water. The salvage tugboats were trying to keep it from sinking.

Thursday's explosion shook buildings along the distant UAE coast and sent flames leaping into the sky.

The USS Simpson, the missile frigate which was monitoring the movement of the U.S.-flagged vessel from a distance, and the USS Dewey, a missile destroyer in the vicinity, rushed to help the tanker and rescued the crew from lifeboats.

The owners said the U.S. Navy searched for the two for over 10 hours, calling it off only after locating parts of bodies and identifying them to confirm the deaths.

The U.S. Navy has a 10-unit Middle East Force in the Gulf, and monitors movement of U.S.-flagged ships in the Gulf from a distance. It officially ceased the regular escorts it used to conduct at the height of the Iran-Iraq war, mainly from Iranian threats.

Subversives question Khamenei's leadership, cleric says

NICOSIA (R) — A senior Iranian cleric said Friday subversives in the country's theological schools were trying to undermine spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

In an address to Friday prayers in Tehran, Ayatollah Ahmad Azari Qomi spoke of lingering questions in religious circles about Khamenei's credentials for the position of supreme leader.

He urged support for Khamenei and President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and said much of the current anti-government criticism couched in Islamic terms was politically loaded.

Political analysts said Azari Qomi's blunt speech in the capital, broadcast live by Tehran Radio, indicated the rifts were too deep to contain within clerical circles.

Yesterday some people were saying the leadership must be separated from the theological schools," Azari Qomi said, referring to a meeting of Muslim clerics in the holy city of Qom.

"I said 'But didn't the imam (the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini) interfere?' Came the reply: 'Imam was different to Khomeini.'

A senior clerical assembly elected Khamenei, 51, by a four-fifths majority to succeed Khomeini a day after his death following cancer surgery in June.

Khamenei lacks the top clerical rank of Marja Taqid, "source of imitation," but constitutional changes approved in July lowered the religious qualifications for the leader in favour of political ones.

"Some think 'Well, I am more knowledgeable than Mr. Khamenei.' But knowledge is not everything," Azari Qomi said.

"The Marja Taqids put forth great theories, but it is the leader who assesses objective conditions and says which theory is correct."

Azari Qomi — a theological teacher at Qom, mentor of Resalat newspaper which supports the private sector and former member of parliament — told critics to curb their complaints about Rafsanjani's handling of the economy.

"The enemy has infiltrated theological schools and tries to undermine the affairs. I ask everyone to give the government a chance to solve problems with wisdom," he said.

The ayatollah said some people were agitating among relatives of people killed during the Islamic Revolution, saying state radio and television ignored the goals of their loved ones.

"I am not in a position to attack or defend the radio and television, but you give your sons for the establishment of an Islamic government and then the implementation of Islamic rulings by the leader."

"The leader can suspend Islamic rulings if he deems it necessary, and you should accept this with happiness," Azari Qomi said.

Tehran residents said small groups of demonstrators, some riding motorcycles, called for stricter enforcement of the dress code in the capital last week.

Two weeks ago Ayatollah Abolqassim Khazali, a member of the Guardian Council which oversees the parliament, blasted the television for its music programmes which he said encouraged young people to "dance and commit other decadent acts."

Azari Qomi said another sign of efforts to diminish the leadership was the omission of Khamenei's name in the welcome statement read at the beginning of Iran Air flights.

Turkey cautious on pro-Armenian resolution rebuff in U.S.

ANKARA (R) — Turkey reacted cautiously Friday to the U.S. Senate's rebuff of a resolution commemorating the alleged genocide of Armenians in Ottoman Turkey during and after World War I.

"We are cautiously optimistic but this is not the end of it. Another vote is expected next Tuesday," Foreign Ministry spokesman Murat Sungur said.

Officials said limited restrictions on U.S. activities in NATO-member Turkey affecting flight training and navy visits would remain in force for the time being. They were imposed after the resolution was mooted late last year.

"The Senate has clearly shown its interest in and the importance it attaches to Turkey by refusing to adopt this resolution," Turkey's ambassador to Washington, Nuzhet Kandemir, told the semi-official Anatolian News Agency.

Turkey wants the scrapping of the resolution which calls for April 24 to be a national day of remembrance of the 75th anniversary of the Armenian genocide of 1915-1923."

Successive Turkish governments since the Turkish Republic was forged in 1923 from the ashes of Ottoman Empire have denied Armenian and other claims that up to 1.5 million Armenians were victims of genocide.

"If we can get over this storm we will feel much more relaxed in years to come. Our friends in the Senate have succeeded and we are delighted," one Turkish official said.

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DOCTORS safe after kidnap in Sudan

NAIROBI (R) — Two Western doctors, abducted three weeks ago by rebels in southern Sudan, were released and their medical relief group suspended operations in the war-torn south. The couple arrived safely in Nairobi, tired and relieved to be going home. Belgian Christine Van Haegheborth and her Dutch boyfriend Martin Ruppert, told reporters they had made a lengthy trek through the bush with the rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). Looking thin and sunburnt, the couple, who work for the Belgian section of the medical charity Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), said they had been well treated.

HOSPITALS

AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre, 81361/3/2; Civil Defence Department, 661111; Civil Defence Emergency, 630341; Jordan Maternity, 711111; Jordan Electricity Authority, 615615; Electric Power Company, 636381; RJ Flight Information, 06-3230; Queen Alia Int'l. Airport, 06-3320.

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department, 661111; Civil Defence Emergency, 630341; Civil Defence Emergency, 152-621111; 637777; Fire Brigade, 891228; Blood Bank, 775121; Hospital Police, 843402; Traffic Police, 843500; Public Security Department, 661222; Hotel Complaints, 669500; Price Complaints, 661176; Water and Sewerage Complaints, 897467; Amman Municipality, 892501; First Pharmacy, 661912; Firdous Pharmacy, 778336; Al Asmaa Pharmacy, 637153; Nairvah Pharmacy, 623672; Al Salam Pharmacy, 636730; Yacoub Pharmacy, 644945; Simeisian Pharmacy, 637660; Overseas Cabs, 010230; Central Amman Telephone Repair, 623101; Alshab Telephone Repair, 661201; Jordan Television, 773111.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

18:45 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ) Tripoli (RJ) 19:45 19:45 19:45 19:45 19:45 19

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

الجريدة المستقلة العربية الصادرة باللغة الإنجليزية. تأسست 1975.

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Summit with agenda

THE Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) summit convenes today in Amman amidst renewed hope and optimism that the Arab leaders will succeed in putting more flesh on the ACC skeleton. Granted the ACC is a very young Arab formation, having just celebrated its first anniversary. Yet the many challenges and dangers poised at the footsteps of the entire Arab Nation require that the pace of achievements be accelerated and consolidated. The positive mood in which the leaders of Egypt, Iraq, North Yemen and Jordan meet today gives us hope that the ACC will rise to these challenges and dangers confidently and boldly. Nevertheless, what remains to be done and accomplished by the ACC summit is indeed much and formidable. For instance, the foreign policies of the four ACC members, have yet to be fully synchronised and coordinated. The same could be said about their defences which have a long way to go before they are integrated as originally suggested and expected. As for our economies and fiscal policies, there is still an even longer road ahead before such pursuits and objectives are harmonised on a level commensurate with the high expectations generated by the creation of the ACC in the first place. The biggest challenge of all is the proposition the peoples of the ACC member countries have yet to feel that their countries have truly made sufficient progress on the way for greater Arab cohesion and harmony. What appears to be the biggest impediment in the path of greater degree of unity among the four is the same old traditional obstacle of absolute sovereignty that is still entertained by the Arab countries. There is no way the aspirations and goals of the ACC can be realised without sufficiently eroding this notion of orthodox Arab sovereignty to the level and degree necessary for creating a genuine nucleus for Arab unity. The Arab countries at large still act and pursue policies as if their peoples are alien to one another with no room left for Arab unity that used to echo ever so strongly in past times.

Thus the eyes of the Arab peoples of the four members of the ACC are focused more than ever on the Amman summit with increasing excitement and hopes. The Arab peoples share with their respective governments their anxieties and concerns about the new threats and challenges to the Arab Order and expect effective remedies to them in ways and means that they can be associated with and participate in. It is high time therefore for the ACC to reach out and acquire grassroots involvement and support, for without it there is not much hope in ivory tower pronouncements.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Isra Wal Miraj is a Muslim and Arab anniversary which this year is being observed as the world witnesses a new onslaught on their holy shrines in occupied Palestine, said Al Isra's Friday. There is no point in remaining sad and living on the memories of Jerusalem and the holy places, as the need is great now for action and for unity among the Muslims and the Arab World to regain the usurped Al Aqsa Mosque and the rest of the occupied territories in Palestine, said the paper. There is no alternative for the Arab and Muslim people to unify and take serious action in the face of Israel and its allies and in the light of the continued usurpation of the Muslim shrines, the paper added. The Arab and Muslim nations which confide in their leaders hope that these leaders will shoulder their religious as well as their national responsibilities and save Arab and holy places. There is need to think with a new mentality and to chart new plans that can rise to the level of the challenge awaiting the Arab and Muslim people in Palestine, said the paper. It said that the Arabs should not suffice themselves with the lip service and the various statements issued by the European Community about the situation in the occupied Arab territories where the Jewish immigrants are being settled on Arab land. There is need for a new pan-Arab action and there is need for unity in the face of the looming danger, it said.

Al Dastoor daily commented Friday on the four member Arab Cooperation Council's summit which will start in Amman Saturday. The paper said that Amman welcomes the King's guests following the elapse of one year since the creation of the ACC group which will pave the way for a pan-Arab unity. The past year witnessed serious efforts on the part of the four countries, represented in the numerous agreements drawn up to pave the way for full integration, the paper noted. It said the ACC leaders are now meeting amid serious challenges to their countries and the Arab World at large, and they are bound to take serious action to help their Arab masses deal with the danger inherent with the influx of Jewish settlers in Arab land. The paper said that the four leaders are meeting in Amman which overlooks Palestine where the Jews are being settled and the Arabs uprooted from their homes and lands. Perhaps they want to make a point of pledging to deal with this serious issue which threatens the future of the Arab Nation, the paper concluded.

Sawt Al Shabab Arabic daily mocks Washington's statements which pretend to criticise Israel for abusing human rights and mistreating the Palestinians. The paper noted that the European Community, the United States State Department and the British government had all issued statements criticising Israel for its actions and for settling Jewish immigrants on Palestinian soil. But, it said, there is no meaning to any of these statements, first because Israel does not take them seriously or disregard them completely, and second because these statements could not be sincere since there is no action to back them on the part of the international community. The paper said the condemnations and criticisms continue. Israel continues to commit crimes and continues to disregard the world's public opinion in all forums.

VIEW FROM AMMAN

Mandela, South Africa and the future

By Kamel S. Abu Jaber

TYRANTS, now and throughout history, never seem to learn that while you may put a man in jail, it is impossible to do so with an idea. Nelson Mandela, leader of the African National Congress of South Africa was unjustly put in jail for twenty seven years. His ideas were never incarcerated nor, for that matter, his proud spirit. Frederick William de Klerk, the product of the Afrikaner's Boer tradition of apartheid and white supremacy finally saw the light and changed his mind. President de Klerk is now trying to establish a new system, for a new South Africa based on law rather than on repression. And, however, one may question his continued attachment to the system of separate — though — equal South Africa, one has to admit that the man has taken a step in the right direction. For while he is trying to kill and bury the past, with all its ugliness and injustice, he is yet uncertain as to what the future may bring.

This is where he needs the wise and courageous Mandela whose vision too, is of a great South Africa built not only upon law but justice as well. The release of Mandela is the release of a great energy that hopefully the whites of South Africa will cooperate with in forging a new partnership for the future. While the needs of the black majority must be addressed, the rights of the white minority should be guaranteed. Mr. de Klerk's so-called multi-racial state falls short of achieving the lawful equality and the justice that the blacks demand. And while this may be a starting point to be presented at the outset of negotiations with the blacks, it is hoped that it will not be the final word. Three points should be emphasised at this point. First that there is need for haste to keep the momentum of good will going. Both Mr. Mandela and Mr. de Klerk face very strong opposition within their own communities. Should the momentum be halted both leaders stand

to lose, and their loss will be the loss of South Africa too. Both leaders face radical and fierce opposition within their ranks. Such opposition must not be given the chance, nor the time, to build its own rejectionist momentum. Second and in view of the situation, it is obvious that Mandela and de Klerk need each other. Thus far they seem to have built an atmosphere of mutual confidence and respect. Both are innovative, pragmatic and committed to South Africa. Third and final point is that the destructive capacity of both blacks and whites against each other is immense. Should the momentum, now built to slacken, the reservoir of hatred could lead to untold destruction.

And while Israel seems to be sliding back to lower levels of barbarity and violence, thus further isolating itself from its neighbourhood, indeed the civilised world, South Africa, which grew out of similar "missionary" ideology, has for the first time in its history, a chance of decent survival. Indeed it may, should it address itself to its problems with humanity, and a sense of the justice of the possible for all sides, "blaze another trek" that may, hopefully, be an example to Israel.

Mandela left his prison, but his spirit, the spirit of his people, indeed all South Africans, white or black, is still not free. The unjust jailor is as much in prison as the jailed. Mandela though a mere man, and though still alive, is already an idea: an idea that is part of the heritage of man everywhere. The children of Palestine, wielding stones and ancient slings know of Mandela and what he stands for. Perhaps in his example, in cooperation with Mr. de Klerk, will help Israel in demolishing the wall of fear, the ghetto mentality it has built around itself. For in Palestine it is not only those in jail that are imprisoned, but an entire population that cannot breathe for one moment the breeze of freedom. Even

those who are not physically in jail are not free because the government, indeed the whole system is such a travesty of justice. The contrast between what is happening in Israel and South Africa is startling, for while de Klerk takes a bold step towards the future, Minister Sharon resigns his post because the government of Israel is not repressive and cruel enough, thus taking another step backward away from humanity.

In hailing its release, His Majesty King Hussein rightly called Mandela the "great warrior" whose dedication emphasised the inevitable "human triumph everywhere against the forces of evil, terror, and discrimination." His years in jail, like the years in jail that the Palestinians are now suffering are indeed pages of pride and glory and a monument to human dignity.

It is hoped that the two men, Mandela and de Klerk each of whom took a grand step, though only a step towards the future will continue along the path of cooperation. De Klerk, who stunned white South Africa on Feb. 2, 1990 by lifting the 30-year ban on the activities of the African National Congress and who freed Mandela, needs the support of sanity that can only be given him by Mandela. De Klerk was right when he announced on the eve of Mandela's release that, "tomorrow will bring us to the end of a long chapter..." Professor John Barrett, political scientist and director of South Africa's Institute of International Affairs, was also right when he said, "much will depend on the part Mandela will play..." Hopefully the tune the two leaders will play will not be discordant. Until such time as their *indaba*, Zulu for negotiations, get meaningfully under way, the sanctions against apartheid South Africa should not be lifted. The sanctions may help both sides in mellowing the opposition to reform in their ranks.

King voices concern

(Continued from page 1) President Hosni Mubarak on the fringes of the ACC summit in Amman.

On the democratic experiment in Jordan, the King said the proposed national charter would be based on respect for the constitution and in accordance with principles that guarantee the right of every Jordanian to participate in preparing it. He said a group of

politicians and intellectuals would be invited soon to be entrusted with the task of drafting the charter, which will be submitted to the public for a plebiscite.

The formation of political parties will be discussed by the government and parliament, the King said, reaffirming that political pluralism would be achieved in Jordan since "it is the essence of democracy."

Qasem said that Arab consultations on the issue should be at summit level, but any such gathering should be preceded by "practical and effective preparations."

The threats and dangers inherent in the Soviet Jewish influx to Palestine and the protection of Arab waters, according to Qasem, are two pressing concerns for the Arab World. He described the problems as "examples of the dangers of Arab disunity and schism."

"We should learn from the

repercussions which we have seen

and continue to see as a direct result of Arab disunity," Qasem said.

On reports that Jordan was reviving its efforts to settle the differences between Syria and Iraq in a bid to include the former in the ACC, Qasem said: "We have always tried, every time an Arab-Arab conflict surfaced, to settle such disputes on common grounds and we will continue to do so with a view to arriving at better inter-Arab relations."

He said that the issue of Arab waters had not yet received its due attention although it was "one of the most important and dangerous threats in the history of this region."

Israel has planned its expansionist policies in the Middle East based on its plans to control water ways in the area as well as ensure further water resources necessary for its continuation, he said.

In answer to a question on

Jordan's position towards Egyp-

(Continued from page 1) "If we look at the 1956 (Suez) war we find that Israel entered that war to ensure its freedom of navigation," Qasem pointed out, adding that it was the usage of Arab waters that was behind Israel's continued presence in South Lebanon, although the threat of Palestinian military presence there has been eliminated.

In an obvious reference to the recent now between Turkey on the one hand and Iraq and Syria on the other over the one-month cut-down in the flow of the Euphrates River by Ankara, Qasem said that it was "necessary to establish a united Arab position which would guarantee these rights..." "The Nile, the Euphrates, we have basic rights in these waters."

Arab states have agreed in the past that any Arab financial assistance to any country which shares waters with any downstream Arab state should be linked to a guarantee that the aid recipient does not hamper the water.

In answer to a question on the revival of the Eastern Front against Israel, Qasem said that the danger facing the Arab World "has no borders."

"It is not only Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Libya and Iraq who are concerned," he said. "This is a comprehensive situation for all Arab states." He did not elaborate.

He said that it was necessary to form an Arab position which would bloc any opportunity for Israel "to evade the embarrassing situation it is facing now and posed by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) when the (PLO) took a steadfast position to end the Arab-Israel conflict."

In answer to a question on Jordan's position towards Egyp-

Baker asks Israel to stop haggling

(Continued from page 1)

we've been working on over the

past months and we're not going

to get into the detail of that...

except to say that this meeting was very constructive and hopefully will prove to be very productive," he added.

On Thursday, Baker told the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee that the time for action had come in the Middle East after months of slow-moving negotiations.

"We really need now to start. We need action. We've done a lot of talking," he said.

Stamir told Bush there was no government policy directing Soviet emigres to Israeli settlements in the occupied territories.

White House Press Secretary Marlin Fitzwater said Shamir made the denial in a morning telephone call to Bush. In a written statement issued in Baltimore, where Bush was delivering a speech at Johns Hopkins University, Fitzwater said Bush repeated U.S. opposition to any settlement activity on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Appearing before the House committee on Thursday, Baker accepted one Congressman's assessment that more than 99 percent of the Soviet emigres arriving in Israel were not being settled in the territories, and he acknowledged that the efforts of Arab governments had been important in developing Soviet opposition to the direct flights.

"I really do think," the secretary continued, "that there is some concern that ultimately there may be settlement in the territories. And that's why a clear and definitive policy approach that makes it abundantly clear that there are not going to be settlements" would be helpful, he said.

Such a role has been ruled out by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. In an interview published Friday in the Jerusalem Post, Shamir was asked what the PLO could do to make itself an acceptable negotiating partner.

To say there would be no more settlements would be the best approach, he said, adding that a statement declaring "that these people will not be settled in the occupied territories, I really think would go a long way toward helping us cure the problem."

Defying Arab opposition and U.S. criticism, the Jewish settlement of Ariel in the occupied West Bank announced Friday it was expanding to accommodate more Soviet immigrants.

Ariel's mayor, Ron Nachman, told Reuters he had government permission to expand his settlement of 8,000 and expected to absorb some 400 Soviet and East European immigrants in 1990.

"I am looking to build a big, big, major town for the region... it is the responsibility of the government of Israel and the Jewish people abroad to build as many apartments as possible to absorb all these Soviet Jews," he said.

A partial lifting of Soviet travel restrictions by President Mikhail Gorbachev has allowed a Jewish exodus and at least 160 Soviets have settled in Ariel in the past five months, joining 600 who arrived during the 1970s.

Nachman said housing for the immigrants was rapidly running out and mobile homes were being readied for the overflow until 250 new apartments were built.

Israeli officials expect 50,000 to 100,000 Soviet immigrants this year but say only a small proportion will settle in the occupied West Bank or Gaza Strip.

The United States has said the immigrants should not settle in occupied territory and has described an unhelpful remarks by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir that a "big Israel" was needed to accommodate the newcomers.

Scores have moved into other

settlements, including Maaleh Adumim, near Jerusalem, where 30 Soviet Jews settle each month.

PLO position

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) remains committed to peace despite Soviet Jewish settlement in the occupied lands, a PLO spokesman said Thursday, backing down from a threat to revert to militancy.

Bassam Abu Sharif, adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, told reporters, "The PLO is and will remain committed to the cause of peace in the Middle East because peace is our choice, our only choice."

On Wednesday Abu Sharif said the influx of Soviet Jews was an act of war which could undermine the PLO's commitment to peace through diplomacy.

"If no practical steps are taken by the superpowers, we will have to think of ways and means of defending our land... we are threatening to end everything. We are not prepared to be bluffed any more," he said.

On Thursday he again described the settlements as an act of war and said Palestinians would continue to resist the Israeli occupation until the West Bank and Gaza were free.

Asked if the PLO peace initiative was under threat, he said, "It is the Israeli government which is threatening the peace process in the Middle East by such acts (as settling Soviet Jews) and by organised terrorism against Palestinians."

A Soviet diplomat in Paris meanwhile denied reports that Soviet embassies in Europe and the Middle East were on alert because of threats made by Palestinian extremists angry over

the migration.

"The embassy isn't on alert and I don't believe there's any threat to our diplomats," said First Secretary Dimitri Youdine.

"It's important to realise that the problem is not Jews going to Israel, but that Israel adhere to international accords prohibiting settlement in the occupied territories," he said.

Qaddafi blames U.S.

Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi accused the United States of facilitating and financing the resettling of Soviet Jews in the occupied territories, daily Al Ahram newspaper reported Friday.

The United States is responsible in the first degree for this immigration and not the Soviet Union," Qaddafi said in an interview with Al Ahram. It was conducted in the southern Egyptian resort Aswan last Sunday.

"The emigration (of Soviet Jews) was a prime condition the United States put to the Soviet Union in return for improved relations..."

"It is American money which encourages the migrants to buy Arab territories and settle in them. The Soviet Union only allows them out, but does not give them money which enables them to live and settle in Arab territories. It is billions of American dollars that does that," Qaddafi added.

He did not specify whether he believed the United States gave money directly to the Soviet Jews or whether it reached them indirectly through U.S. financial aid given to Israel.

Du scandale financier à la crise sociale

La banque Petra dans la tourmente

Sérieusement ébranlée par le scandale financier qui a éclaté en août dernier, la banque Petra se retrouve aujourd'hui aux prises avec ses employés. Depuis mardi, la majorité des 675 salariés de l'entreprise sont en grève, à l'appel du syndicat des

De nombreux banquiers jordaniens, on n'avait jamais vu ça. Depuis mardi, une écrasante majorité des 675 employés du siège et des 25 succursales nationales de la banque Petra sont en grève, à l'appel du syndicat des salariés du secteur bancaire et des assurances (JBIEA). "C'est la première fois qu'un mouvement social de cette ampleur se produit dans cette profession", assure Youssef Hourani, membre du bureau de la JBIEA.

Les raisons d'une telle colère? Les conditions de travail, et en premier lieu les salaires. "Voilà 5 ans que nous n'avons pas vu l'ombre d'une augmentation sur les feuilles de paye", explique l'un des grévistes, qui, à l'instar de 300 à 400 de ses collègues, est venu manifesté mardi et mercredi matin devant le siège de la société financière, à Wadi Salqa.

Les revendications ne s'arrêtent pas là: "nous voulons aussi que la Petra instaure une grille d'avancement. Figurez-vous que dans cette banque, vous pouvez trouver deux employés, qui avec les mêmes diplômes, la même ancienneté et des postes équivalents touchent l'un, moins de 100 dinars, et l'autre, plus de 300", affirme Youssef Hourani. La délégation syndicale chargée de négocier avec la direction, et dont il fait partie, exige également que soit instauré un "code moral" pour le respect des salariés et une véritable "inspection du travail" pour éviter les licenciements abusifs.

Du côté patronal, on se déclare "étonné" de l'attitude de la JBIEA.

En fait, rien n'est moins sûr. Ebranlée en août dernier par l'un des scandales financiers les plus retentissants du royaume, l'ancienne banque

banques. Ils réclament notamment des augmentations de salaires, l'instauration d'une grille d'avancement et de meilleures conditions de travail. Le comité de direction, nommé il y a sept mois par le gouvernement, estime avoir déjà fait son possible.

S'exprimant au cours d'une conférence de presse mardi soir au siège de la Petra, le président du comité de direction, Walid Asfour, a indiqué "invité une délégation de grévistes à rejoindre la table des négociations", le jour même. "Nous sommes surpris que le syndicat ait choisi de violer le code du travail en appelant à la grève sans préavis de 14 jours, comme l'exige la loi".

Pour M. Asfour, la direction "a fait tout ce qu'elle pouvait". Selon lui, des augmentations de salaires de 1% à 15% ont notamment été proposées

dans l'ensemble, à l'exception d'une réunion de comité avec le premier ministre, Moudar Badran. "334 employés, qui touchent moins de 100 dinars, se sont vu proposer 15 dinars de plus par mois. Nous avons également mis au point une grille, ce qui n'existait pas sous l'ancienne direction".

Concessions, qui colleront à 700 000 dinars à la Petra, a-t-il souligné, en estimant "réalistes" le million exigé par la JBIEA.

Mercredi soir, direction et syndicat campaient toujours fermement sur leurs positions. "Nous continuons la grève jusqu'à ce que nous revoyons nos revendications soient satisfaites", a notamment averti aussi le président de la JBIEA, Haidar Raschid. "La Petra a reçu de l'argent de la Banque centrale. Elle peut payer", renchérit Youssef Hourani.

En fait, rien n'est moins sûr. Ebranlée en août dernier par l'un des scandales financiers les plus retentissants du royaume, l'ancienne banque

d'Ahmad Chalabi, actuellement en faillite, semble plutôt mal en point. L'instauration, le 3 octobre dernier par le gouvernement, d'un nouveau directoire n'a manifestement pas permis d'améliorer la situation de l'ancien fleuron de la finance jordanienne. Le 15 février, le nouveau directeur général de la Petra, Bassam Atari, reconnaissant d'ailleurs dans les colonnes du "Star" que la dette de la compagnie s'élevait à quelque 250 millions de dinars.

Coquille vide?

"En décembre, la Banque centrale a certes fait des avances en trésorerie de 260 millions de dinars, dont 180 millions en devises, à la Petra. Mais c'est une somme que la banque devra rembourser", précise un expert occidental. Sinon, c'est une dépense de l'Etat. Or elle n'apparaît pas dans le budget 1990 qui vient d'être voté".

En effet, la Petra doit se résigner à se débarrasser de l'ensemble de ses actifs, qui avec les mêmes diplômes, la même ancienneté et des postes équivalents touchent l'un, moins de 100 dinars, et l'autre, plus de 300", affirme Youssef Hourani. La délégation syndicale chargée de négocier avec la direction, et dont il fait partie, exige également que soit instauré un "code moral" pour le respect des salariés et une véritable "inspection du travail" pour éviter les licenciements abusifs.

Accusée d'apostasie par trois fondamentalistes

quatrième sommet du CCA à Amman Un ordre du jour chargé

Le quatrième sommet des chefs d'Etat du Conseil de coopération arabe s'ouvre aujourd'hui à Amman. Les entretiens, qui doivent durer deux jours, entre le royaume hachémite et les présidents égyptien, irakien et nord-yéménite porteront essentiellement sur l'immigration des juifs soviétiques en Israël et la coopération militaire arabe.

Le roi Hussein et les présidents Hosni Moubarak, Saddam Hussein et Abdallah Saleh ont du pain sur la planche. A l'ordre du jour de leur quatrième rencontre depuis la création du Conseil de coopération arabe en février 1989, figurent en effet bon nombre de dossiers. Et de dossiers brûlants.

Autre du problème de l'immigration massive des juifs soviétiques à destination d'Israël, qui occupera aujourd'hui et demain le devant de la scène. Les "Quatre" considèrent en effet, à l'instar des autres pays arabes, que cet événement constitue la menace la plus sérieuse contre le règlement global du conflit israélo-palestinien. Et ce, malgré le refus répété de Moscou d'autoriser les vols directs de l'Etat hébreu et les avertissements adressés à Tel Aviv par la communauté internationale contre toute implantation des nouveaux arrivants dans les territoires occupés.

La coopération militaire entre pays de la Ligue, qui figure elle aussi en bonne place au menu des travaux du sommet, prend un relief particulier dans ce contexte de regain de tension. D'autant plus que le premier ministre Jordalien n'a pas exclu cette semaine que la proposition faite en mai 1988 par le roi Hussein de créer un régime inter-arabe soit évoquée ce week-end. Bien que Moudar Badran ait minimisé la portée de la création, il y a une semaine, d'une "escadre aérienne nationale" jordanienne, nombre d'observateurs se demandent s'il n'agit pas d'ores et déjà d'un premier pas dans cette direction.

Autres sujets épaves dont le contenu reste à déterminer: les propos de la CCA: les chefs d'Etat se retrouvent en Europe de l'Est, le Liban et le plan de paix proposé par l'Irak à l'Iran le 5 janvier. Ces deux derniers dossiers se révèlent primordiaux pour les "Quatre", et notamment pour la Jordanie, qui appelle avec de plus en plus d'insistance à un rapprochement syro-jordanien. Ainsi, Jordanie sans doute de faire progresser l'idée d'une nécessaire entente entre Damas et Bagdad. Un processus dans lequel le président égyptien joue sans doute un rôle clé à jouer. Hosni Moubarak pourrait en effet s'envoler dimanche soir pour Damas, à l'issue du sommet. (D'après agences).

Accusée d'apostasie par trois fondamentalistes

Toujane Faycal non coupable

Accusée à deux reprises d'apostasie par des fondamentalistes musulmans, la productrice de télévision et journaliste jordanienne Toujane Faycal a définitivement obtenu gain de cause mercredi devant la cour d'appel islamique d'Amman.

La cour a décidé de rejeter la plainte portée contre Toujane Faycal. La petite phrase est tombée au terme d'un verdict, dont la lecture a duré plus d'une demi-heure mercredi matin dans les locaux de la cour islamique d'Amman, à Djebel Husseini. Une petite phrase, qui met fin à presque quatre mois d'affaire Toujane Faycal.

Tout avait commencé fin octobre en pleine campagne officielle pour les élections législatives. Deux musulmans fondamentalistes, dont le maifit en second des Forces armées, avaient alors accusé Mme Faycal d'apostasie, c'est-à-dire d'abandonner la foi de son père.

Il y a près de deux semaines, l'avocat des deux hommes, Abdullah Shamayleh revenait à la charge au nom de «l'intérêt public» et demandait, cette fois, à la cour d'appel islamique de Tbilisside sur le marché américain et une trentaine sur le marché français. Son «patron», selon les enquêteurs, était William Perrin, déjà condamné à la levée de l'état d'urgence et de libération de tous les prisonniers politiques sud-africains.

French connection. La police française a annoncé mercredi qu'elle venait, au terme de cinq ans d'enquête, de démanteler un important réseau de trafic d'héroïne entre les Etats-Unis et la France, dirigé par d'anciens caïds de la «French connection», surnom donné à énorme trafic de stupéfiants des années 1980. Dix-huit personnes de nationalité française ont été inculpées et incarcérées. Ce réseau a écoulé 260 kilos d'héroïne en provenance de Thailande sur le marché américain et une trentaine sur le marché français. Son «patron», selon les enquêteurs, était William Perrin, déjà condamné à la levée de l'état d'urgence et de libération de tous les prisonniers politiques sud-africains.

Nucléaire. François Mitterrand s'est engagé solennellement mercredi à autoriser la vente d'une centrale nucléaire au Pakistan, malgré les critiques de l'Inde et des Etats-Unis. Le président français a fait cette offre dans une conférence de presse commune avec le premier ministre pakistanais Benazir Bhutto, à l'occasion de sa visite officielle dans ce pays. M. Mitterrand s'est ensuite envoié vers le Bangladesh, où il a effectué un voyage de trois jours. Premier chef d'Etat d'une grande puissance occidentale à effectuer une telle démarche, le président français devait notamment annoncer hier le montant de l'aide financière que Paris compte fournir au Bangladesh pour lutter contre les inondations meurtrières, qui endeuillent chaque année la région.

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Egyptian premier describes changes in Europe as lesson to Arab World

CAIRO (R) — Political and economic changes sweeping Europe showed the Arab World that political progress could only come through economic integration, Egypt's Prime Minister Sedki has told Arab finance ministers.

"We must realise that if economic integration between Arab states does not take place, I doubt very much that progress on political issues can be achieved," Sedki said.

He was addressing ministers and delegates from 22 Arab League members who gathered in Cairo for the day to discuss the effects of the recent political upheaval in Eastern Europe and the emergence in 1992 of an integrated European Community (EC) market.

"What will the Arab nation's position be. Will it benefit from the changes? I doubt it. Will it be harmed?" most probably, Sedki said in what analysts called one of his frankest speeches.

The ministers met at Cairo's Nile-side Arab League building for the first time in more than a decade. The league moved its headquarters to Tunis to protest at Egypt's 1979 peace treaty with Israel.

Sedki said it was unfortunate that trade between Arab states in 1987 reached only \$6.6 billion compared with \$9.6 billion with the rest of the world.

"We should question, is this the state on which Arab economic integration will be based?" Sedki asked.

"If Arab economic integration

was a necessity in the past, today it is a challenge in the light of international changes ... and all studies show it is possible," he emphasised.

He urged further contact and economic coordination between Arab states, increasing the Arab World's industrial and agricultural production and upgrading the Arab workforce.

Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi, in a speech read by his assistant Asaad Al Asaad, said Arabs had to review their strategies and economic policies as the world was on the threshold of new political and social structures.

Kuwaiti Finance Minister Jasim Mohammad Al Khorafi told reporters that although Arabs may wish for an Arab common

market, they had to realise that it was not yet possible.

Economic groupings within the Arab World faced different circumstances and studies still had to be made on how to coordinate their policies and unite their stands.

"Frankly, our regional gatherings have not yet been able to coordinate between each other," Khorafi said.

He was referring to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) which groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain.

Egypt, Jordan, Iraq and North Yemen are linked in the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) while the Maghreb Union consists of Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Mauritania and Libya.

Nikkei nosedives below 35,000 level

TOKYO (AP) — Fears of higher interest rates and jitters over recent bearish market sentiment sent the main index on the Tokyo stock exchange plunging again Friday, while the U.S. dollar rose sharply against the Japanese yen.

The Nikkei stock average of 25 selected issues, which Wednesday lost 1,161.19 points, or 3.15 per cent, in its third largest loss ever, fell another 935.87 points, or 2.61 per cent, closing at 34,890.97.

Friday's drop, the index's fifth largest, pulled the market's leading indicator down to a four-month low. It was the first time the index has fallen below the 35,000-point level since Oct. 17, 1989.

The Nikkei index now has dropped 2,569.35 points, or 6.86 per cent, this week, and 4,024.9 points, or 10.34 per cent, since the beginning of the year.

Analysts and dealers attributed the continuing bearishness of the world's highest-valued stock exchange to participants' fear of an interest rate hike and a wave of computer-aided selling by arbitrageurs.

They said an increase in the central bank's official discount rate is expected shortly because of higher inflation in recent months and rapid growth in Japan's economy and money supply.

"We know it (the interest rate hike) is coming, but the problem is no one knows when and how much the hike will be," said Keiichi Nishida of Kidder Peabody.

A finance ministry official, acknowledging confusion in the market over arbitrage trading, said

body Securities. "So, many investors are taking a wait-and-see stance until the uncertainties clear, leading to the low volume of trading in recent weeks."

Higher interest rates tend to discourage stock investment.

In the past week, volume traded on the first section of the exchange has averaged only about 400 million shares a day, about half the usual amount.

Officials at the Bank of Japan, whose official discount rate now stands at 4.25 per cent after three rises last year, said they still are watching economic conditions and have not decided on another hike.

While many investors stayed on the sidelines Friday and only a small number of shares changed hands, a wave of computer-aided programme selling by arbitrageurs hit the market, pulling down index-related shares sharply, traders said.

"The market is extremely vulnerable right now to such selling, because of the low volume of stocks being traded and small number of investors taking part," said Michio Katsumata of Nomura Securities Co. "The Tokyo market has never fluctuated this widely before arbitrage trading was brought in."

In arbitrage trading, participants profit from differences in prices for the same security in different markets, for example the spot and futures markets.

A finance ministry official, acknowledging confusion in the market over arbitrage trading, said

the ministry directed the securities industry Friday to report on their arbitrage activities. The official spoke on condition of anonymity.

The dollar opened higher in Tokyo after its overnight surge against the yen, which also lost ground against other major currencies, including the Deutsche mark.

After opening at 146.20 yen, the dollar ranged between 145.95 and 146.60 yen during the day. In New York, the dollar closed Thursday at 146.53 yen, up from 145.50 yen Wednesday.

Currency dealers said the future direction of the U.S. currency remained uncertain because of the unpredictability of interest rates in the United States, West Germany and Japan.

"About half of traders say the dollar will go lower, and others predict it will rise further," said Toru Kanai, a foreign exchange analyst with New Japan Securities Co.

But dealers predicted more weakness for the Japanese currency because of market participants' frustration over the Bank of Japan's failure to raise interest rates.

Traders said the central bank sold dollars intermittently during the day Friday in an attempt to bolster the yen. The bank does not normally comment on its monetary actions.

But traders estimated the bank sold as much as \$1 billion, keeping the U.S. currency from rising above the 146.60 mark.

China expects more austerity ahead

BEIJING (R) — China's economic growth slowed dramatically in 1989 after being crippled by a tough austerity campaign, a government spokesman has said while predicting more sluggishness this year.

Figures revealed a decline in employment in rural industry and the private sector, once the most dynamic areas of the economy but now targets of orthodox Mar-

xists who seized control of the ruling Communist Party last June.

Zhang Zhongji, spokesman of the State Statistical Bureau, said gross national product, the value of all goods and services, rose only 3.9 per cent last year after an 11.2 per cent expansion in 1988.

Industrial output climbed 8.3 per cent, but that was far below the 20.8 per cent rise of 1988.

Initial figures for January already showed a steep decline in industrial output and many of the nation's factories have been forced to close or pay workers only a fraction of their wages.

The spokesman warned that China had still not resolved many of its key economic problems, such as low productivity throughout industry.

"This is only the number of people who have gone through officials' channels to find new jobs," said an economist. "There are many people who lost jobs in the cities and were

sent home to the countryside," he said. "We don't know what has really happened to many of these people."

The hardline Marxists who ousted reform communist Zhao Ziyang as party chief in June have portrayed private business as tax cheats, and set heavy new levies on them.

They have channelled available credit to their ideological allies, the creakingly inefficient state sector, while choking off credit to the private sector and rural industry.

As a result, employment in once thriving private industry fell to 19 million, down three million from a year ago, while rural industry also lost three million jobs, now employing 92 million people.

The spokesman warned that China had still not resolved many of its key economic problems, such as low productivity throughout industry.

"Many of the measures we have taken to restore the economy have not tackled the root of the problem," he said. "The task ahead is extremely difficult."

WARSAW (AP) — Poland signed World Bank loan agreements for \$360 million Thursday, delivered with the promise that up to \$2.5 billion will be available if Poland sticks to its dramatic economic reform plan.

World Bank President Barber Conable also pledged that the total of \$5 billion his agency plans to lend in Eastern Europe in the next three years would not come at the expense of aid to impoverished nations elsewhere which have traditionally borrowed from the International Development Bank.

"We are expanding our role in Eastern Europe precisely because of our worldwide responsibilities and experience — and because Eastern Europe's agenda of change, growth and expanded human opportunity make a compelling claim on our resources," Conable told government officials.

They said that from this week merchants at the "Libya Market" in the southern city of Sfax, the main entrepot for such goods, would have to produce receipts showing how much the goods cost and proving they have paid duty where necessary.

In theory only goods produced in Libya with 40 per cent local input are exempt from duty. In practice traders have been importing into Tunisia a wide range of non-Libyan products.

They said the measures would wipe out their trade altogether and leave 1,500 families destitute.

In Tunis, an economy ministry official said, "we had closed our eyes to this parallel market but it's led to a real mess. So we had to introduce a little order."

The entry of the newly democratic nations of the East Bloc and their shattered economies into the competition for aid has left nations in Africa, Latin America and elsewhere worried that resources will dry up.

Even in Poland, there had been concern that other East Bloc countries following Warsaw's course toward reform, some of which have less-damaged industrial bases, will draw away needed Western assistance.

Poland withdrew from the Washington-based World Bank in 1954 and returned in 1986. The other East Bloc members are Hungary and Romania. Czechoslovakia, which also withdrew in 1954, applied in January to rejoin the bank, owned by the governments of 152 countries.

The loan agreements signed by Comable, Polish Finance Minister Leszek Balcerowicz and Polish National Bank President Wladyslaw Bala, with Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki looking on, are the first for Poland since it rejoined the World Bank.

A \$260 million loan will support industrial export, while the second \$100 million loan will finance agricultural development.

Both 17-year loans are intended for enterprises that will "break bottlenecks" impeding production in Poland's outmoded industries and under-mechanised farming, said Janet Loo, the World Bank's expert on Poland.

The loans will go to the Polish National Bank, which will extend credit to commercial banks for lending to industries that meet the World Bank's criteria for viability and repayment potential.

But the National Bank president said Poland's infrastructure is not yet sufficient to handle additional lending, and that the expansion of commercial banking and other changes are required.

"We are fully aware of the great organisational effort required to absorb such a large amount of credit," Bala said.

The World Bank will extend further credit as long as Poland continues its unprecedented effort to convert its centrally controlled economy into a market-driven system, Comable said.

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"We are fully aware of the great organisational effort required to absorb such a large amount of credit," Bala said.

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Sports

Bahrain, Qatar in goalless draw

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Sept. 13.
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After its opening
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The ball rolled end to end but

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TANIAH HERSH
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦A43 ♦MQ3 ♦J3 ♦92
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♦ Pass Pass 1 ♦
What action do you take?
A.—There used to be a theory that, to take a free bid now, you had to have a pretty good hand. However, this often led to your side getting frozen out of the auction. With a five-card major, a singleton and support for partner's suit, there is no danger in bidding one spade, and you can comfortably pass any response partner makes.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦97652 13 163 ♦96542
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♦ Pass Pass 1 ♦
What action do you take?

A.—We know some who would respond one spade with this collection but, in the words of Samuel Goldwyn, "include us out!" That's asking for trouble. We doubt that the bidding will end at one club, but if it does and we miss game, that's life.

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦97652 13 163 ♦96542
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♦ Pass Pass 1 ♦
What action do you take?

A.—You have promised nothing when you actually have a pretty good hand. You have five-card support for partner's first suit and a host of ruffing values. Tell partner of your distributional assets by jumping to four clubs. Since you couldn't bid over one club, partner won't expect more than this.

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

there were no positive moves from either side in the first half.

Qatar missed three close chances in the second half.

The tournament, held every two years by the Arab states of the Gulf region, is played at the UAE, Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and Iraq.

The seventh participant, Saudi Arabia, has boycotted the games

Agassi quits with food poisoning

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Andre Agassi, the highest remaining seed in the \$1-million pro indoor tournament, quit suddenly because of food poisoning Thursday night, handing a 5-7, 7-5 victory to 13th-seeded Pete Sampras.

Suellen Foley, a spokeswoman for the tournament, said Agassi had eaten pasta Thursday evening at a Philadelphia restaurant she would not identify and had a bananna afterward.

"It's not the way I would have liked to have won, but I'll take it," Sampras said. "It don't get very many freebies playing top 10 guys."

Sampras said he had noticed Agassi slowing in the second set, but thought he would keep playing. "He went into the locker room and threw up, and usually when you throw up, you feel better, but he didn't, and he looked very pale," he said.

Agassi, the number three seed in the tournament, is the latest of a rash of upsets that have put top-seeded John McEnroe and number two seed Brad Gilbert out of the tournament. Fourth-seeded Jay Berger defeated Walley Masur Thursday.

Sampras started strongly in the tie-breaker, 3-2, with a placement return of service, but then hit a high volley backhand on his next serve to make it 3-3.

Agassi started strongly in the first set, taking the first three

games, but then losing momentum.

Agassi came back to tie at 3-3, and then broke Sampras' service a second time to lead 6-5 in a deuce game. Agassi then served out the set at love and won as Sampras backhanded a return of service over the baseline.

In the hard-fought second set, Agassi and Sampras each broke the other's service twice in the first four games, then Sampras broke Agassi's service a third time in the 12th game on the fifth set point.

Earlier, fifth-seeded Tim Mayotte rallied from a first-set loss to defeat Glenn Layendecker 6-3, 7-6 (7-4) and gain a quarterfinal berth.

Mayotte and Layendecker served and volleyed strongly throughout the third set, neither breaking the other's service despite several opportunities.

"He's a difficult player to play because he hits the ball so hard, and it's kind of one, two-shot, bang-bang tennis," said Mayotte, who survived a third-set tie-breaker for the second straight night.

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U.S. defence secretary reassures allies

Cheney confirms troop cut plan in Asia, Pacific

TOKYO (R) — U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney Friday confirmed an American plan to cut its Asia-Pacific forces by 10 per cent, but promised worried allies Washington would not create a power vacuum by withdrawing from the region.

In a major policy speech at the end of a two-week Pacific tour, Cheney said 120,000 U.S. troops as well as warships and aircraft were a bulwark of stability in the financially booming region.

"It is important to stress that we are not talking about a first step toward withdrawal," he told the Japan National Press Club, reassuring Pacific rim allies who fear the American military umbrella might be folded up and shipped home.

"If we were to withdraw our forward-deployed forces from the Asia-Pacific region, a vacuum would quickly develop. There almost surely would be a series of destabilizing regional arms races, an increase in regional tension and possibly conflict," he said.

Cheney said he had discussed a modest removal of U.S. troops in the region during talks with leaders in South Korea, the Philippines and Japan.

"It is on the order of approximately 10 per cent scattered across the region ... the time frame we are talking about is three years," he said.

Cheney declined to give a breakdown on where withdrawals might occur, saying that decision had not been made yet. The United States maintains 43,500 troops in South Korea, more than 50,000 in Japan and Okinawa and nearly 18,000 in the Philippines.

In his speech, Cheney stressed that the Soviet Union was not the only reason for a balancing U.S.

independence, now based in San Diego, was commissioned in 1959 and is capable of carrying more fighters, attack jets and advanced electronic warfare planes than the Midway, which will be retired.

Cheney urged the leadership in China to undertake necessary economic and political reforms "to move down the long road toward reaching its potential as a world power."

Obviously referring to condemnation by the United States and other countries of China's crackdown on internal dissent, Cheney said, "We believe that an isolated China does not promote democracy and economic development for the Chinese people."

Cheney also urged the Soviet Union to return unconditionally the contested "northern territories" to Japan, and to encourage North Korea to expand its dialogue with South Korea and seek a negotiated solution to their tensions.

What Japan calls the northern territories are several small islands off Japan's northern main island of Hokkaido. They were seized by the Soviet Union just before the end of World War II.

Cheney reiterated that Washington wanted to retain the rights to Clark Air Base and Subic Bay Naval Base in the Philippines, but only as long as the Philippine people want us there and only under terms acceptable to both their country and ours."

Tension has risen between the two countries as negotiations approach on the bases, which have leases expiring in 1991.

Cheney was shunned by Philippine President Corazon Aquino and burned in effigy during a Manila visit last week.

The conventionally powered

Cardinal refuses to testify in Philippines coup plot

MANILA (AP) — The archbishop who helped negotiate the surrender of rebel soldiers during a coup attempt in December has refused to testify in an investigation of the mutiny, the state-run Philippines News Agency reported Friday.

The report quoted a spokesman for Cardinal Ricardo Vidal as saying that the Cebu archbishop's testimony "will be divisive and this will go against the pastoral approach of the cardinal and the church."

"If we issue any statement, we will lose our credibility in any future negotiation effort," the news agency quoted Msgr. Achiles Dakay, Vidal's spokesman, as saying.

The cardinal helped negotiate the surrender of troops under Philippines Air Force Brig.-Gen. Jose Comendador, who seized the Mactan Air Base near Cebu, 560 kilometers southeast of Manila, during the Dec. 1-9 coup attempt against President Corazon Aquino.

Aquino created a five-member fact-finding commission to look into the causes of the rebellion, the sixth and most serious attempt to topple her government.

Meanwhile, opposition Senator Juan Ponce Enrile Friday said the Philippines is worse off under Corazon Aquino and apologized for helping install her as president in the 1986 "people power" revolution.

"I'm sorry," Enrile said during a call-in programme on radio station DZRH. "I apologize that the people in power now have different goals. I am asking your apology because we all made a mistake."

Enrile, President Ferdinand Marcos' defence minister, led a handful of reformist military officers who mutinied against Marcos following the fraud-ridden Feb. 7, 1986 presidential election decided against Mrs. Aquino.

Earlier in the week, the Soviet legislature issued a decree calling on local authorities to crack down on illegal protests Sunday and to

Japanese satellites lost in Ariane blast

KOUROU, French Guiana (R) — An unmanned European Ariane rocket exploded shortly after lift-off from its jungle launch-pad in South America overnight, destroying two Japanese satellites in a \$430-million disaster.

The doomed spaceflight, delayed last November when the American-built satellites were damaged in the San Francisco earthquake, ended in a ball of fire above the Atlantic Ocean one minute and 40 seconds after launch from Kourou, French Guiana.

Kourou's 12,000 inhabitants were advised to shelter indoors for at least an hour for fear of toxic gases released by the explosion.

"Naturally we are sorry for the two Japanese clients and for the insurers, who, I think have also lost a bit of money, or probably a lot of money," said Roland Deschamps, managing director of Western Europe's Arianespace conglomerate.

Earlier, Arianespace Chairman Frederick d'Allest said all future missions would be suspended until the cause of the accident, the first suffered by the company's latest Ariane-4 rocket, was established.

Beyond saying there was a problem in the rocket's propulsion system, officials have not commented on the cause of the explosion.

Deschamps noted that prior to the explosion of its 36th mission, Ariane had enjoyed a run of 17 successful launches. It was the company's fifth failure and its first loss since September 1987.

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